

I am deeply concerned about the pending change in ownership rules. As a private citizen with no financial interest in any media outlet, I note that technology has admittedly changed the manner in which many of us receive our news and information. The number of delivery channels have increased dramatically. The hoped for outcome of increasingly more and more channels of delivery - that news and information sources would increase along with the delivery systems -has not materialized. Nor has it become easier for common citizens to access media outlets. In fact, just the opposite has occurred. Channels of delivery have been hijacked by those seeking to consolidate control of news and information sources to increase the bottom lines of mega-corporations. Not that there is anything wrong with increasing the bottom lines. But when it intervenes in an industry whose ability to foster diversity of information sources affects the way we do democracy, then there needs to be some clear controls put in place. The FCC is charged with caring for the public's airwaves. To allow further consolidation of the industry will surely prove detrimental to an American democracy that must learn to appreciate and include an ever-widening array of cultures and viewpoints.

I call on Mr. Powell to extend the decision on changing ownership rules, and to subject this topic to vigorous debate so that a decision can be made that truly helps this nation's democracy remain strong through public engagement of important topics. This is a hugely important decision. Once made, it can not be undone. Do the job right, Mr. Powell. That is what the citizens of this nation expect from their public servants - especially when the public servant is charged with the care of its own public airwaves.